



NEWS RELEASE

WYOMING DISTRICT OFFICE

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Small Business Week Winners Announced

Casper – The small business awards are a highlight of SBA's Small Business Week celebration, May 9th – 14th. National Small Business Week, now in its 41st year, honors the contributions of the nation's small business owners. The winners are selected on their record of stability, growth in employment and sales, financial condition, innovation, response to adversity and community service. Involvement with SBA is ***not*** a selection criterion, though many of the winners received some type of assistance from the SBA at some point.

"Small businesses are, and will continue to be, the heart of the Wyoming and U.S. economies," said SBA Director Steven Despain. "That's why it is important that each year, as part of National Small Business Week, we take time to recognize the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice of our small business entrepreneurs that make our American way of life possible."

Wyoming's winners for 2004 are: Small Business Person of the Year, Curtis M. Weston, Decker Auto Glass, Casper; Financial Services Advocate of the Year, Roger Curtis, US Bank, Casper; Home-based Business Advocate of the Year, Connie Lindmier, Lindmier Investments International, South Pass City; Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year, Wind River Development Fund, Fort Washakie; Small Business Exporter of the Year, Scott Hecht, Wyoming Completion Technologies, Powell; Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Kevin Songer, owner Los Agaves & Papa Guyos, Sheridan; Small Business Journalist of the Year, Aliza Sherman, author, Laramie; Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year, Dr. Tom Walsh, LTC, AUS Retired, Casper; and the Women In Business Advocate of the Year, Robin McClure, Cody.

All state winners are forwarded on to compete at the Regional level (Colorado, North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming). This year three Wyoming winners are also Regional winners: Roger Curtis is the Regional Financial Services Advocate award winner, Kevin Songer is the Regional Young Entrepreneur of the Year award winner and Wind River Development Fund is the Regional Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year award winner.